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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/530,174

Attorney Docket No.: Q87222

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A printing apparatus for forming a dot in a desired position of a printing sheet by ejecting an ink droplet from a nozzle, comprising:

a static electricity eliminating mechanism, which eliminates static electricity generated on the printing sheet by a conductive portion that is arranged in a position to which the ink droplet is ejected from the nozzle or an upstream side of such position on a path through which the printing sheet passes;

wherein the conductive portion is formed in at least one of a sheet feed roller and an idle roller that carries the printing sheet;

wherein the sheet feed roller or the idle roller ~~is formed~~ comprises a conductive rod-shaped member by having coating a predetermined ~~an~~ insulating coating on a surface thereof of a ~~conductive rod-shaped member; and~~

wherein the sheet feed roller or the idle roller ~~conductive portion is formed by~~ comprises ~~stripping~~ stripped-off a part of the coating on the sheet feed roller or the idle roller portions where the insulating coating is stripped off so as to expose the conductive rod-shaped member;

wherein the stripped-off portions are configured to substantially eliminate static electricity of the printing sheet;

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wherein the insulating coating is configured to apply a friction force between the sheet feed roller or the idle roller and the printing sheet;

wherein the friction force is substantially uniform in a longitudinal direction of the sheet feed roller or the idle roller;

wherein the stripped-off portions are configured to transfer static electricity of the printing sheet to the conductive rod-shaped member; and

wherein the stripped-off portions are configured such that the conductive rod-shaped member contacts the printing sheet during operation of the printing apparatus.

2. (previously presented): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

an earthing unit, which earths the conductive portion.

3. (previously presented): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the conductive portion is formed in the sheet feed roller.

4. (previously presented): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the conductive portion is formed in the idle roller.

5. (original): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 3 or 4, further comprising:

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an earthing unit, which earths the sheet feed roller constituting the conductive portion or the idle roller constituting the conductive portion.

6. (previously presented): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the rod-shaped member of the sheet feed roller or the idle roller is connected to the printing apparatus so that the static electricity generated on the printing sheet is discharged to the printing apparatus through the conductive portion.

7. (original): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein a strip-off portion of the coating on the sheet feed roller is formed at least at two locations; and wherein the idle roller is formed so as to push the printing sheet by the strip-off portion.

8. (previously presented): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the conductive portion is a conductive member that is arranged in the position to which the ink droplet is ejected from the nozzle or the upstream side of such position on the path through which the printing sheet passes and is connected to a chassis that is different from a paper feed member.

9. (previously presented): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein the conductive portion is a conductive member having a sharp tip; and wherein the sharp tip is arranged to be directed to the printing sheet.

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10. (original): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein a plurality of projected portions are formed on a contact surface with which the printing sheet comes into contact on the path through which the printing sheet passes to reduce a contact area.

11. (previously presented): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein a material of a member constituting the path through which the printing sheet passes is configured by selecting material that is near material of the printing sheet in a charging sequence table.

12. (original): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein a surface of a member constituting the path through which the printing sheet passes is coated with material or a surfactant that is near material of the printing sheet in a charging sequence table.

13. (previously presented): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a printing unit, which ejects the ink droplet from the nozzle to an area that is out of a size of the printing sheet.

14. (previously presented): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein an ink absorbing member for absorbing the ink droplet ejected to an outside of the printing sheet is arranged on a platen.

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15. - 18. (canceled)

19. (new): A printing apparatus for forming a dot in a desired position of a printing sheet by ejecting an ink droplet from a nozzle, comprising:

a static electricity eliminating mechanism, which eliminates static electricity generated on the printing sheet by a conductive portion that is arranged in a position to which the ink droplet is ejected from the nozzle or an upstream side of such position on a path through which the printing sheet passes;

wherein the conductive portion is formed in at least one of a sheet feed roller and an idle roller that carries the printing sheet;

wherein the sheet feed roller or the idle roller comprises a conductive rod-shaped member having both coated portions and uncoated portions,

wherein the coated portions comprise an insulating coating that is coated on a surface of the conductive rod-shaped member; and

wherein the uncoated portions are devoid of the insulating coating that is coated on the surface of the conductive rod-shaped member.

20. (new): The printing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the stripped-off portions are configured such that an exposed surface of the conductive rod-shaped member is

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positioned proximate to the printing sheet during operation of the printing apparatus such that static electricity of the printing sheet is substantially eliminated.